

COUNCIL BRIEFS

December 15, 2017

Social Services helps families in need at

Thanksgiving: Social Services distributed food gift cards to 403 households in need for the Thanksgiving holiday, up from 370 in 2016. Since the holiday is celebrated differently, gift cards allow people to select food that fits their culture and tastes.

Social Services continues to see a growing need for food assistance. Last fiscal year, 6,000 bags of food were distributed, up by nearly 1,000 bags compared to the prior fiscal year.

The Food Pantry is always in need of non-perishable food. Items may be dropped off in the Town Hall lobby, Monday through Friday, 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

Free One Hour Parking: The Municipal Parking Division is offering everyone one hour of free parking in West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square now through December 31st through the mobile PassportParking app. Simply use coupon code 6S6IRRE upon checkout. The coupon may be used at any municipal parking site including the garages, on-street spaces and surface lots. The coupon may only be used once.

Land Record fees increased: Effective December 1, the CT General Statutes increased the land recording fee from \$53 to \$60 for the first page of a document (CGS 7-34a (d), and from \$53 to \$60 for the filing of a Foreclosed Property Registration Form (CGS 7-148 ii).

Extra patrols added during the holidays: The West Hartford Police Department wishes everyone a safe holiday by driving responsibly. WHPD will be deploying extra patrols during the holiday season and will be looking for aggressive drivers, distracted driving, seatbelt violations, excessive speed, traffic control violations, and especially motorists who are driving while intoxicated. The officers will be in both marked and unmarked vehicles.

Tips to Prevent Package Thefts: This time of year the theft of gift packages increases in our neighborhoods. The Police Department offers a few tips to prevent this from happening to you.

- * Leave instructions with parcel delivery services to keep the packages out of sight.

- * Take in deliveries as soon as they arrive.

- * If you are not home, have packages delivered to your work or to a neighbor who is home.

- * Pick packages up from your local Post Office or UPS center or a private mail service

- * Have Amazon purchases delivered to an Amazon Locker. One is located at 65 Memorial.

If you see suspicious activity, call the West Hartford Police Department at 860-523-5203.

Park Road at I-84 Construction Update: The Town's contractor has excavated a significant amount of soil to begin forming the new off ramp. Large Styrofoam blocks called Geofoam have arrived on site and will be stacked over an existing drainage culvert. The lightweight blocks will be used as fill material to reduce the weight over the culvert. The contractor also plans to begin construction of the modular retaining wall that will be located between the on and off ramps. Work will continue through the winter (weather dependent) between the existing on and off ramps.

Rockledge Golf Club closes for the season:

West Hartford's 18-hole, award-winning golf course closed for the season on December 9. The Golf Shop will remain open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM for holiday gift shopping including gift certificates, golf clubs, apparel and much more.

Rockledge Winter Trails are open: Get on your hiking boots, cross country skis or snow shoes and try out the winter trails at beautiful Rockledge Golf Club. Choose from the yellow trail (.6 mile); the red trail (1.6 miles); or the blue trail (2.2 miles.) All three trails start and end at the Golf Shop and are clearly marked with colored markers spaced .1 mile apart. Trail guides and new tree identification plaques along the way will add to your enjoyment. Trails are open daily, dusk to dawn.

Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager